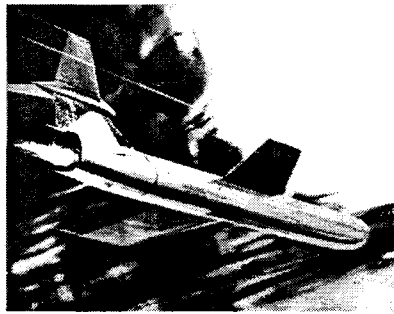


TRACING  
SYSCAL  
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# Mace/Matador

"Serving the tactical missile crews  
and support personnel who  
fought and won the cold war"

# MISSILEER NEWS

Volume 1, Issue 2

November-December 1999

## Early Edition-Reunion 2000?

Yes, this issue was supposed to be published in December, but we had to revert to a contingency plan. The reason for the early mailing is that things are changing quickly, and we needed to respond just as quickly. Lots of items to cover, so I had better get started.

The first topic to consider is the suggestion that we get together again in 2000! If that becomes a realistic goal, and we hope it is, there are many things to consider, and plans to put in motion.

Before any event can be planned, we need information. What do you want to see and do if you attend? What is your preference concerning lodging, meals, transportation, entertainment, etc. In other words, we need constructive comments and suggestions. The enclosed questionnaire is a first step in gathering the information needed to assure the event will meet everyone's expectations.

There is another subject also related to information gathering and disbursement. When the first edition of our newsletter hit the mail, I received numerous requests for addresses and phone numbers of members. Since many were interested in finding old friends, it occurred to me that it might be beneficial to publish a membership roster with that info. To do this, we need current information, plus your permission to publish the roster.

Now on to the subject of the enclosed questionnaire. It's very important that they be returned, since it's foolish and expensive to send a newsletter to someone who merely throws it away without reading it.

Names on the original mailing list were compiled from various sources and we strongly suspect that many of those people

were never associated with either the Mace or Matador programs. If they receive this unsolicited paper, it will likely make a quick trip into the garbage. There might also be a few Missileers who for some reason wish to be left alone, and as much as we hope that isn't so, their privacy and wishes will be respected.

Because of this situation, we decided that unless you are a confirmed member, we will stop sending newsletters and other correspondence. Your name will then be retired to an inactive file. Therefore, it's very important that you verify you are who we think, and whether you are interested in keeping in touch.

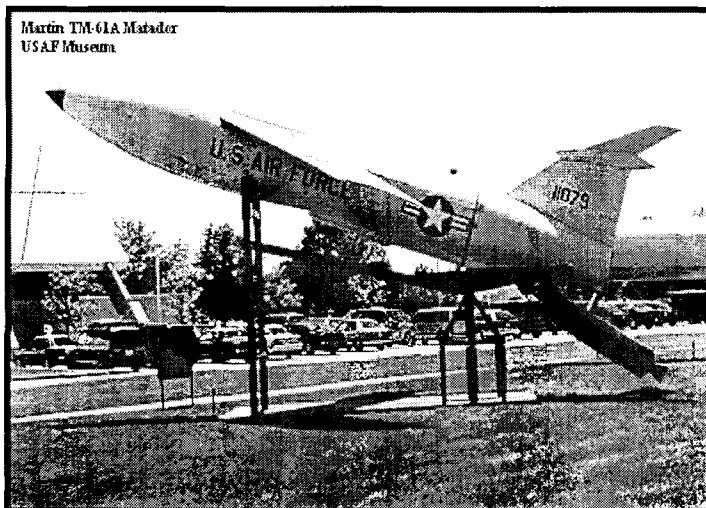
Please take a minute to fill out the enclosed questionnaire, and return it ASAP. We'll take your decision to heart and proceed with plans for an event in 2000, or concentrate on the original plan for Orlando in 2001.

Finally, I want to sincerely thank each and every one of you who wrote letters and e-mails. When the first issue of the newsletter went into the mail, I feared it might not meet your expectations, but the response was amazing and heartwarming. I wish I could answer every letter and e-mail I received, but there were just too many to make that possible. If you didn't receive an answer, rest assured your letter was read and greatly appreciated. Thank you one and all for the kind words and financial support.

### Memories are Made of This

Watching our site security guards walk their posts in darkness and heavy snow on a lonely Christmas Eve. ■ The night Gloria DeHaven sang a song at our table in the Airman's Club. ■ Ground beef for fifteen cents a pound at the commissary. ■ Quartermaster gas and Esso coupons. ■ The day Phil Veverka's old Ford Taunus couldn't climb the hill from Traben-Trarbach in 1st gear and we had to use reverse the last half mile. ■ Steaks, the way you wanted them, at the Metro Tango mess hall. ■ The scary day a missile wouldn't throttle back from 105% and rolled up the blacktop like a rug. ■ TSgt Hays winning most of the ping-pong tournaments at the site.... unless Capt. "Sweet Willie" Bowles was really on his game! ■ Chit books at the Airman's Club when \$77.10 a month didn't stretch. ■ Electric toilets in the blockhouse, which no one dared use, and even worse, those Chinese toilets which were level with the floor, and all flushed together! ■ Goats used for lawnmowers in restricted areas. ■ The Cuban missile crisis, and listening to news of the Soviet-fleet intercept on AFN. ■ Thanksgiving meals at the consolidated mess hall.

Happy Holidays Everyone!





## Chairman's Podium

Joe Perkins, perkster@fcol.com

When the decision was made to hold our next reunion in two years time, the consensus was that we would have difficulty attracting enough people if we made it an annual affair. Since then it was pointed out that over 300 people have been added to our mailing list. Perhaps a few of those originally contacted took a wait-and-see attitude, or were unable to attend because of short notice, so it became obvious we needed to re-evaluate our decision.

Since the Las Vegas reunion was successful, it's possible we could convince a substantial number of the 300, and many of the original attendees, to get together again in 2000. Since we opened the doors to Matador people and support organizations, we now have a much larger pool of veterans to draw from.

If the 2000 meeting becomes a reality, we are planning to hold the event in a central location, with good airline access

### Editorial:

## Don't Hide the Welcome Mat

Gary Sand, Newsletter Editor,  
gsand@quik.com

We received a letter from a member of a 38TMW medical unit who lamented the fact he had not been invited to attend the first reunion. It appears we have another case of missed communications! In reality, he would have been most welcome, as were all others who directly or indirectly supported the tactical missile missions around the world.

I can cite a personal example of how important and appreciated these folks were.

We were in the throes of an extended Tactical Evaluation or ORI when I developed a severe case of strep throat. We had been working around the clock, and even the healthy were little more than zombies. Like the other crewmen, I was reluctant to go on sick call, because I knew everyone was needed at the missile site. Eventually I became so ill I had to see a doctor. We had been given a few hours off to attend to personal things, so I stopped to see Dr. Golden at the Hahn clinic. After examining me, and administering the expected shot, he told me to have a seat in the waiting room. He said he would locate some additional medication, but wanted to see me again before I left.

I was asleep the moment I hit the chair, and the next thing I knew, I awoke to an empty waiting room and darkness outside. I was in a panic thinking I was AWOL.

I rushed to the pharmacists window to get my prescription, and there was Doc Golden. He told me to relax, and that he had called the squadron to inform them I would be held at the clinic awhile. He said he suspected I would go back to the missile site as soon as I got my medication, but he also suspected I would fall asleep once I sat down.

and within a reasonable driving time for many. Two possible sites are Oklahoma City and Dallas-Fort Worth. Both are within a 12 hour drive for approximately half our members, and both areas are served by several airlines that cover our east and west coasts thoroughly. As this is being written, we are researching the areas for facilities that would be acceptable for our needs.

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Thanks to all who have donated to our operating expense fund. As of 1 Oct 99, we have received \$690 in donations. A special thank you for a couple of very generous donations that far exceeded the suggested amounts. It was greatly appreciated.

The remaining balance should cover two more newsletter mailings, but your additional donations are appreciated. Any left-over money will be used in some way to benefit the members.

Joe

### WE'RE ON THE INTERNET!

Several pictures of people and hardware are now posted on an internet website. Check it out:

[Http://homepages.go.com/~mace\\_missile/index.html](http://homepages.go.com/~mace_missile/index.html)

If you still haven't figured out how to use one of those newfangled computers, ask the grand-kids to show you the website, and then send some of your old photos to add! If you don't have access to a scanner, *Kinko's* or *Copy USA* stores will scan your photos and convert them to a digital format. Send them to Joe and he can quickly add them to the internet site.

It was obvious I needed rest more than anything, so he let me sleep nearly six hours in the waiting room! His opinion was that a sick airman was not contributing to the mission, so he bent the rules a bit to the benefit of everyone. I often recall his gesture of kindness.

I would have enjoyed seeing Doc Golden at the reunion, and even if he was part of the 50th Tac Fighter Wing, he ministered to the men and families of the missile units. I would hate to think anyone would make him feel unwelcome at our gatherings.

The same goes for the firefighters attached to the missile sites. Bob Greer was one of the firemen I got to know soon after arriving in Germany, and who chauffeured several of us newbies around in his red VW. It was his 2nd tour in Europe, and he spoke German, so he took the time to introduce us to a German culture beyond what we found in Lautzenhausen. Bob was a member of the 50th TFW, but his workplace was the missile site.

Another friend to many was Carlton Sanders, the Security NCOIC at Site IV. I hope he finds out about our group, as I'm sure many missileers would enjoy renewing his friendship.

The point of all this is if your job took you to the missile sites, and if your friends were missile men, you're welcome to join us. Yes, we like to think of our units as being elite, but not to the point of being snobs! If we ever become so snobbish as to let a silver pocket-rocket determine which of our friends should be allowed to pull up a chair and reminisce, I'll be the first to resign.

Gary

## UNIT BULLETIN BOARD

**Does anyone have access to official histories from our old missile units? We also need organizational charts for all levels of command pertaining to our units. If you have any of this info available, please contact Gary Sand or Joe Perkins.**

From: The First Sgt  
To: All Personnel  
Subject: What I'm thankful for

To live in this great country, and to have so many fond memories of the people I served with in the United States Air Force. You will have a Happy Thanksgiving!

*The First Shirt*

**Shades of PBS! .....If you haven't gotten around to helping out with a donation, it's never too late. Please make checks payable to Joe Perkins, and send to him at: 2019 Cornell Rd, Middleburg, FL 32068**

### ATTENTION TO ORDERS

Cold war Vets are eligible for a Cold War Recognition Certificate IAW Section 1084 of Public Law 105-85. To receive it, you must mail a letter and a copy of your DD214 to:

Cold War Recognition  
4035 Ridge Top Road  
Fairfax, VA 22030-7445  
FAX: 1-800-723-9262

### CALLING ALL ARTISTS

We all wore a squadron, group or wing patch during our time in uniform. It instilled unit pride and told others who we were and what we did. It only seems appropriate to have a unique logo/patch again.

I'm sure many of you have ideas that could be applied to a logo to represent our former mission and to reflect our pride in service. To that end, Here is a challenge to all artists and heraldry experts to design a patch to wear on our hats, jackets, and of course, that critical piece of Air Force GSE...the coffee mug!

Here's a suggestion to set your creative juices flowing. From a front view, all our missiles have a common appearance. That profile is distinctive and recognizable as one of Martin's tactical missiles, so a frontal view of the bird would not discriminate against any model.

Another idea to kick around is a motto. I know nothing about heraldry rules for creating a motto, but there must be an expert among our numbers. If there is, please enlighten the ignorant!

Be creative, be colorful, and send us a copy of your creations and suggestions!

*MISSING-One old Missileer: If found, please contact Gary or Joe.*

*If anyone knows the whereabouts of Walt Peirson, please let us know his address. Several years ago, Walt graciously sent me pictures of Hahn missile sites, as well as two audio tapes which included 5865 MG alert messages, recorded from the Base PA system. I hope we can locate Walt, as I'm certain he would want to be included among us. I know Everyone would enjoy hearing his recorded Sounds of Germany at our next meeting.*

### Mail Call!

Here are excerpts from a few of the letters I received:

One letter suggested the name of the newsletter be changed from the Mace/Matador News to the Matador/Mace news, to reflect the actual sequence the missiles went into service. I suppose hindsight being 20-20, we should have done that, but we started life as a Mace group, and the name evolved as we went along. This is not meant as a slight to all you Matador folks, but it's probably easier at this point to go with what we have. If I'm off base on this one, let me hear about it.

\*\*\*

Vic Haas wrote a letter and included several pictures from his tour in Tainan, Taiwan in '60-'61. Vic, your description of life in Taiwan was good for a chuckle, and if you will please send along some more of your memories, they will be featured in a future newsletter.

\*\*\*

Harold Renninger passed on a great story about a missing hold-back bolt on one of the Orlando birds. It seems "they" finally found the bolt. I'm going to plead reader-editor privilege

and not repeat what was told me! Oh well, maybe the statute of limitations has run out...and then again....!

\*\*\*

Also got a nice e-mail from the first General Officer to join our group. MGEN (Ret) Richard Boverie is a former Matador officer with the 11TMS at Sembach. Welcome Sir, it's an honor to count you in our ranks.

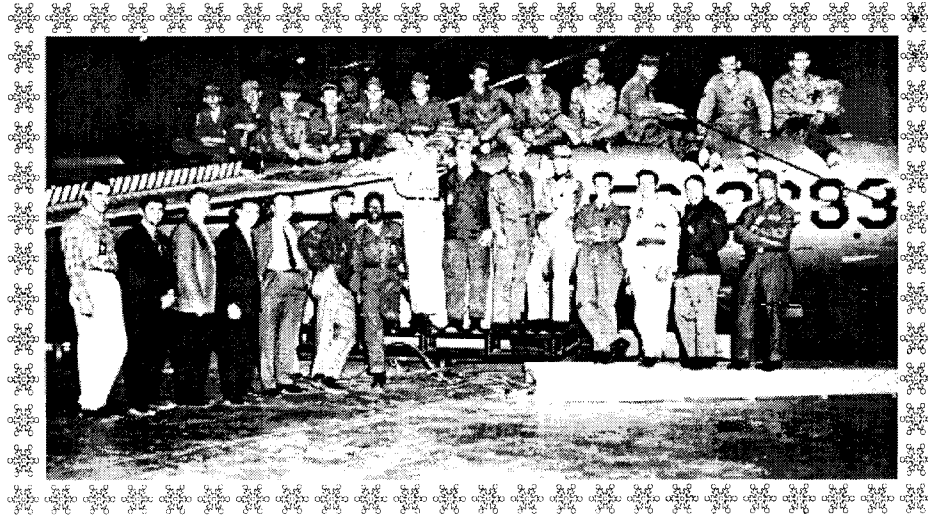
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Several letters were received from Matador and B-bird folks, and I regretfully plead ignorance about either system. If you find this publication slanted towards Germany and the A-model, it's only because I need contributions from the other-missile vets! Send me a story so your Mace-B and Matador crews will have their own memories to enjoy.

\*\*\*

Quentin Davis was kind enough to send a brochure for the Glen L. Martin Aviation Museum in the Baltimore area. According to the pamphlet, no tactical missiles are on display, but you might still be interested in learning more about the museum. The address is: P.O. Box 5024, Middle River, Maryland 21220.

## *Happy Holidays to All!*



### ***EXIT SMILING***

Actual quotes taken from Federal employee evaluations, but would have also been appropriate for many APR's and OER's:

"His men would follow him anywhere, but only out of morbid curiosity"

"He sets low personal standards and then consistently fails to achieve them"

"Got a full 6-pack, but lacks the plastic thing to hold it all together"

"A gross ignoramus-144 times worse than an ordinary ignoramus"

"If he were any more stupid, he'd have to be watered twice a week"

"The wheel is turning, but the hamster is dead"

**Mace/Matador Missileers  
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